

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COME-00 EB-11 EUR-25 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

AGR-20 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

H-03 RSR-01 /161 W

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R 100950Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0602

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA ETRD OVIP

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO US BY COMMERCE MINISTER

1. MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOREIGN TRADE A.H.M. KAMARUZZAMAN VISITING EEC COUNTRIES MID-SEPTEMBER. FOREIGN-TRADE JOINT SECRETARY AHSAN (VERY CLOSE TO KAMARUZZAMAN) PROPOSING RECOMMEND TO MINISTER HE EXTEND TRAVEL TO INCLUDE US FOR UP TO WEEK LATE SEPTEMBER. KAMARUZZAMAN REPORTEDLY HAS RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM MINISTERIAL COUNTERPARTS IN UK, OTHER EEC COUNTRIES HE IS TO VISIT. AHSAN ASKS WHETHER SIMILAR INVITATION COULD BE EXTENDED BY US SECRETARY/COMMERCE.

2. VISIT WOULD BE ENTIRELY AT BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT EXPENSE. BESIDES CALL ON COMMERCE SECRETARY AND OTHERS IN WASHINGTON, AHSAN ENVISIONS MINISTER MEETING WITH US JUTE TRADE, INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO BANGLADESH AS US NOW BUYING ALMOST ONE-THIRD TOTAL EXPORT JUTE GOODS. ALSO MIGHT MEET WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS OF POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPORTERS (SHRIMP-FROG LEGS, LEATHER), EXPORT/INVESTMENT INTERESTS, MORE GENERAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS. AS POLITICIAN AND ONE OF THREE OR FOUR MINISTERS CLOSEST TO MUJIB, MIGHT WISH TO CALL ON SECRETARY STATE, SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN, GROUPS SUPPORTING BANGLADESH LIKE VOLAGS, OTHERS.

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3. ONLY BD MINISTER TO HAVE VISITED US SINCE EMERGENCE BANGLADESH HAS BEEN TAJUDDIN AHMED, TWICE ON WORLD BANK OR IMF BUSINESS. KAMARUZZAMAN WOULD BE FIRST TO VISIT EXCLUSIVELY TO CONTACT AMERICAN OFFICIALDOM AND OTHERS. IN VIEW BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE KAMARUZZAMAN ROLE HERE, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT COMMERCE SECRETARY AGREE EXTEND INVITATION TO VISIT.

4. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP IF FORMAL INVITATION WOULD BE REQUESTED ONCE MINISTER INFORMED OF US WILLINGNESS TO INVITE AS ABOVE AND HE AGREES AND GETS CLEARANCE TO VISIT US.
NEWBERRY

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